

Transportation Advisory Services (TAS) Role

Legal Requirement for Recipients of Federal Section 5311 Funds

Orange County is a sub-recipient of the State of North Carolina to receive federal Section 5311 funds for OCPT services provided within the County's non-urbanized areas. To continue receiving Section 5311 funding in support of OCPT services, the County is required to have a Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) approved by the BOCC. A TAB is a locally formed advisory group that is made up of representatives from the County's public human service agencies, transportation providers, public and business sectors, government affiliates, and transit users, as well as representatives from elderly, minority, and limited English proficiency populations, etc.

For reference, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Public Transportation Division (PTD) FY18 Community Transportation Program Application Package is appended to this attachment. This package includes the Section 5311-Non-urbanized Area Formula Program TAB requirements.

History

The County's transportation services/OCPT advisory function has been in existence since 1992 when it was operating under the name of the Transportation Services Board (TSB). In June, 2010 OCPT and the BOCC approved the administration of the TSB to be moved from the Aging Department to the Planning Department, and the function was incorporated into the Orange Unified Transportation Board (OUTBoard). County staff members from departments that represent populations that NCDOT requires to be represented were included in the staff component of the transportation services/OCPT advisory function of the OUTBoard.

More Recent Transportation Services Advisory Function

As part of the 2012 Orange County Bus and Rail Investment Plan (OCBRIP) development and implementation, there were many outreach meetings and interdepartmental meetings, supplemented by OUTBoard meetings, which were used to meet the requirements of the NCDOT. However, there was a need for ongoing interaction with human service agencies regarding the provision of public transit and opportunities to access public services.

Current Transportation Advisory Services Advisory Function

In order to more fully meet requirements for Section 5311 funding, Planning and OCPT staff, the TAB function in Orange County was established as the Transit Advisory Services (TAS) group, to function in conjunction with the County's existing OUTBoard. The transportation services/OPT advisory function are expanded by adding transit topics to OUTBoard agendas on a quarterly basis, formally including OCPT staff on the agenda for the community transportation system to maintain ongoing communications as one means of seeking public involvement, and ongoing administrative oversight. The TAS jointly discusses unmet needs in the OCPT service area, service design and scheduling, billing rates and fares, and to resolve complaints. Meetings are to be held quarterly at a minimum. The TAS group consists of staff from other County Departments (DSS, Aging, Housing, Human Rights & Community Development, Child Support Enforcement, and the Library).